

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-6 are amended, and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments incorporate dependent claim features into independent claims, which are previously discussed and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to new rejections made in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,238,119 to Liu. The rejection of canceled claim 2 is moot. The rejection of claims 1 and 5 is respectfully traversed.

Liu discloses in Fig. 1 a first light emitter 32, a second light emitter 33 and a switch element (an element pressed by a switch key 310) mounted on a circuit board 31, and a transparent distal cover 22 for covering the first light emitter 32. The circuit board 31 is inserted into a pen body 2. Therefore, Liu does not teach or suggest a removable leading end portion that includes a cap in which the emitter is integrally formed and a housing in which the switch element is integrally formed, with the cap being removably mounted to the housing as recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Liu.

Claim 5 is allowable for its dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Liu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,323,376 to Huang. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Huang does not overcome the deficiencies of Liu with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 3 is allowable for its dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,885,096 to Inuiya. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Inuiya discloses in Fig. 3 switch contacts 48a, 48b. The switch contact 48a is fixed to a lamp 42, and the switch contact 48b is provided on a head 45. The lamp 42 is provided on a cylindrical metal casing 44. See col. 4, lines 26-50.

Therefore, Inuiya does not teach or suggest a removable leading end portion that includes a cap in which the emitter is integrally formed and a housing in which the switch element is integrally formed, the cap being removable from the housing as recited in claim 1.

With the light pen of claim 1, the cap is removably mounted to the housing, and the leading end portion (comprised of the cap and the housing) is removably mounted to the bonding portion. Therefore, as discussed in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0006], since the emitter and the switch are provided in the leading end portion, when either of them malfunctions, the leading end portion can be simply replaced with a new one. As a result, the light pen is inexpensively repaired instead of replacing the entire light pen. Thus, it is unnecessary to replace the overall light pen with a new one. In addition, because the cap is removable from the housing, it is also unnecessary to replace the entire leading end portion with a new one, but only the cap or the housing can be replaced.

On the other hand, if a switch of Inuiya malfunctions, it is necessary to replace the overall metal casing 44 with new one because switch contact 48a is provided on the metal

casing 44. Thus, Inuiya does not achieve this advantage. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Inuiya.

Claim 4 is patentable for its dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,315,282 to Schumacher in view of Inuiya. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Schumacher does not specifically teach a light pen including a removable leading end portion receiving a light emitter and a switch within itself but asserts that Inuiya does. However, as discussed above, Inuiya does not disclose the features of claim 1. Claim 6 is amended to recite features similar to claim 1. Therefore, Schumacher and Inuiya do not teach or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 6. Thus claim 6 is patentable over Schumacher and Inuiya

Claim 8 is allowable for its dependence on claim 6, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schumacher in view of Inuiya, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,239,373 to Tang et al. (Tang). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tang does not overcome the deficiencies of Schumacher and Inuiya with respect to claim 6. Therefore, claim 7 is allowable for its dependence on claim 6, as well as for the additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

WPB:KXH

Date: July 21, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--